

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. ALBINISM IN THE HOUSE SHREW, *SUNCUS M. MURINUS* LINNAEUS

Albinism in the house shrew does not appear to have been recorded before. A beautiful albino female was collected alive in Jabalpur city, Madhya Pradesh on 16 October 1975 and kept alive in a wooden cage with glass top for about three days. The general colour ranged from pure white to dirty white.

The naked parts and colour of iris was pinkish. The measurements in mm are: Head and body, 126; tail, 92; hind foot, 19.5; ear (from intertragal notch to the tip of the ear), 14.4. The specimen has been deposited in the collection of Central Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur.

NATURAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE,  
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H. KHAJURIA

### 2. OCCURRENCE OF *PIPISTRELLUS PATERCULUS* THOMAS, 1915 (CHIROPTERA: VESPERTILIONIDAE) IN BIHAR: AN ADDITION TO THE INDIAN MAMMAL FAUNA

While examining the collection of bats from Bihar present in the National Zoological Collections (Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta), I came across two specimens of a pipistrelle (1♂, 1♀: Collector N. A. Baptista, 15 Aug. 1922, Z. S. I. Reg. No. 19899 and 16990 respectively) from Buhnar, Darbhanga Dist., Bihar, labelled as *Pipistrellus mimus* Wroughton. On detailed examination of the skulls, these were identified as *Pipistrellus paterculus* Thomas. The skull characters as mentioned by Tate (1942) for *paterculus*; 'profile sloping uniformly from brain-case to rostrum, top of rostrum broad, smooth and flat and basal pit absent', are present in these two specimens. Although externally the specimens are very much alike to *P. mimus*, the above mentioned skull characters clearly differentiate them from the latter.

This is, incidentally, the first record of *Pipistrellus paterculus* from India and extends its distribution much westwards from Mt. Poppa and Chindwin both in Burma to Bihar, India.

*Measurements* — External: Length: Head and body 39, 41; tail 29, 31; ear 11, 11 (taken by the collector); Forearm 26.6, 28.7; tibia 9.7, 11; foot including claw 6.2, 6.6 (taken from dry skins).

Skull: Total length 11.4, 11.7; zygomatic width 6.9, 7; length of brain-case 6.4, 6.6; length of rostrum 5, 5.1; maximum height of rostrum 3.6, 3.4; width of brain-case 6, 5.9; maxillary width ( $m^3$ - $m^3$ ) 5.2, 5.1; length of upper tooth row ( $c$ - $m^3$ ) 4.2, 4.4; length of lower tooth row ( $c$ - $m_3$ ) 4.5, -; length of mandible 8.3, -.